

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

FIELD DIARY

Montana of Washington

Mr. Vernon Bailey

Montana

(Official title.)

1918

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8-2887

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D. F. Houston

Secretary of Agriculture.

8-2887

~~1917~~ 1918.

April 6 - Left Denver at 7:20 P.M.
Enroute for Glacier Park.

April 7. Daylight at Crawford,
Nebraska. Reached Billings
at dark and had to stay
over night.

April 8. Left Billings at 10 A.M.
for Great Falls, wound up gulches
and across flats over onto
Painted Rock, and the Musselshell
at and through Judith Gap and
Belt. Lots of snow on the Big Sioux
and Belt Mts. but not much on
the Highwood. A recent heavy
fall of snow over the whole country
has made the grass green and
started the grain. A good
prospect for crops. Sloughs
all full of water & lots of ducks.

Microtus - Several large
woodchucks seen in canyon
SE of Belt. Burrows & trails
common.

Cynomys - Common in places
all day from Billings to Great Falls.

Citellus richardsoni - obs. from
Judith Gap to Great Falls.
Three males seen in hot pursuit of
one female.

Citellus t. pallidus - One seen
close to the track near Billings.

Thomomys - Gopher hills
com. from Billings to Great Falls,
especially on the rich bottom
lands along valleys and in alfalfa
fields and meadows.

Lepus campestris, One seen in
full gray coat near Judith Gap.

Dark at Great Falls.

April 9 - Arrived at Belton
6:20 AM. Rained most all day.
Saw Gibb and got location of elk
herds from E. M. Sweetnam, the ranger
the Station at Paola. He says that
a week ago he counted at one time
over 300 elk from near the station
and that another ranger recently
made a trip up Park Creek and
from the elk trails and signs and a
few dead elk calves that had got
down in the creek he thought
there had been 500 elk in that
valley through the winter.

Mr. Sweetnam says they winter mostly
in the warm slopes of Double Mtn.
and from there around to Park
Creek.

Many white tail deer winter
there on the same slopes.

April 10 Explored around Belton
on both sides of river and watched
the deer which come close to the
houses in the town. Five came
onto the Cholet lawn and I could
see them most of the day on the
slope north of the river. During
the deep snow of winters 20 or 30
were often seen at a time around
Belton. They would get on the Ry.
tracks when the snow was deep
both sides and Gibb & the forest
rangers estimate 30 killed by
the trains during the winters
within a few miles of Belton.
Coyotes are said to have killed
a good many along the river &
the track. ~~too~~ The bucks have all
shed their horns before this.

The snow is all gone in the open
and on South slopes but lots of it
on cold slopes and in the woods.

April 11, Borrowed Gibbs Snowshoes
and took a pack on my back &
started up the North Fork of Hoback
Valley early while the snow was
frozen hard. About 3 feet of hard
snow in the woods with a crust
on it that holds and would hold
a horse. A frosty night has
frozen it solid, but the sun
soon softened the surface and
walking became slippery and
tiresome. Lunched near McGeis
Meadows and passed St. Camas
Creek and reached Gephart's
ranch about 4 o'clock & stopped
for the night. Came 13 1/2 miles
with a 25 lb. pack on my back
and it was far enough.
A warm day, clear and still
most of the time. Thawing fast.
McDonald Lake seems to be all
open & lots of ducks are in it.

Saw one Moose track crossing
the road north of Cawes Creek,
a big bull, with tracks about 6
feet apart in soft deep
snow. The snow is so hard and icy
on the surface that ~~few~~ no animals make tracks
when it is frozen and few were about
when it is soft.

At Gupharts there were lots of robins
and juncos & in the morning a Pine
grackles came and sang to us.

Mr. Guphart says he has had as many
as 50 on his doorstep at a time
during the cold and deep snow of the winter
and that a cat over at an empty
house had the yard covered with
their patters.

The wing of a great gray owl
lies in his wood shed and he says
a middle sized owl (probably Hawk owl) was
occasionally seen during the winter.

He has a fine mounted head of a mule deer
from high up on Huckleberry Mtn. that
I photographed. It has very perfect
horns and is large and rather dark
gray.

He told me of a grizzly with 2 cubs
that he suddenly came close onto in the
huckleberry patch. She made for him at
sight and he fired the only 2 shells in his
luger automatic and then ran down the
steep mountain side as fast as he could.
She passed him as he caught a little
tree & swung out of his way, then she came
back at him but he side stepped & got
below & made another run, but she went
past him again and with one blow tore
his shirt half off as she went. Then she
got on a level and stood up close looking
at him & he at her while he tried to
reload, but finally she turned & went
back up to her cubs & he was glad to get off.

with only a few scratches & the
loss of a shirt & a dollar hat & breeches.
He found the hat a week later but the mice
had eaten the skin & spoiled it.

He says Coyotes & mountain lions
kill more game than all the hunters
& poachers together in this country.

April 12 Got up at daylight
Had breakfast & was ready to start
at sunrise. A beautiful morning with
good crust, 22° above zero.

A glorious tramp over to Dutch
Creek and then down the north side
to Tom Sullivan's camp at the
mouth on the bank of North Fork of Heth
Passed several little ranches, Jones &
Kid Fredericks, but most of the way was
through heavy forest or old burns
Very little snow along Dutch Creek
on the river the 3 or 4 feet in the
timber from Geyharts to the Creek, a
mile or a half.

Found Mr. & Mrs. Sullivan & their
little grand daughter Virginia ^{Palmer} at
home in a neat cabin on the
river bank in the worst possible
place for game protection.

Tramped over moose & deer ground all
person with Mr. Sullivan.

Dutch Creek, April 12.

Alces - Saw one moose track before reaching Dutch Creek and a few near the mouth. Sullivan says about a dozen moose wintered around there, but in former years they have been much more numerous. They did not yard much last winter as the snow was not very deep. 3 to 5 were generally found in a bunch in a patch of timber & kept the snow packed down over small areas.

Mr. Sullivan says they still had horns when he saw them last about 3 weeks ago & that they do not all shed their horns every year. He heard them calling recently and also last fall.

Odocoileus leucurus, white tail deer
are common & lots of tracks seen.

They are now keeping mainly on bare ground
and eating thistles, gnawing the heads into
the ground. In winter they have beaten
the *Cornus* bushes and fed on the long
green & black mass that fell from the
branches and on the branches of *guttierus*.
Their greatest abundance in winter is
around Adams ranch where 27 were seen
at one haystack.

Odocoileus hemionus, A few on mts.
Both east & west of valley.

Elk one old bull seen. Used to be
a few in here.

Sciurus - com. Nests of grass & bark
against tree trunks & out on branches.

Citellus columbianus - a few along

Butch Creek & many on the prairies.

Thomomys, Hills first seen on north
side of Butch Creek and then down
the valley in springs & rivers where obs.
winter signs are seen.

Neotoma - 5 caught at his cabin this
winter.

Peromyscus - Very common in cabin
& troublesome.

Lepus bairdi - com. signs.

Microtus Runways com.

Castor - A few signs & one old
black Cottonwood & put through cut down
some 8 or 10 years ago I should think.

Photographed. Some cuttings along
creek & said to be bank beaver in river.

Erethizon - Said to be com. in
places.

Sciuropterus - a few found here.
One caught in set trap.

Felis - 5 caught across west of
river this winter but none in Park.
3 tracks seen by Mr. Sullivan.

Found one fresh scratching place
near mouth of Dutch & Canon Creek.

~~Lynx~~ - A few Canada Lynx & a few bobcats.

Coyotes numerous & very destructive
of deer. Only 4 dead deer found
killed by them this winter by Mr.

Sullivan but that ^{could be} many found every
day last winter. Deer hairs in
droppings along trails.

Ursus Linnibilis - Said to be a good many.
5 killed by one man.
No tracks seen yet.

Black bear - Com. no tracks yet.

Weasels - Com.

A pair of Canada geese evidently
had nest on Island in river.

Mallard ducks - A pair seen on
shore of island.

Mergus americanus - Com. seen here
two males seen fighting over one ♀.

Bonasa - Com. - Draining.

Dendrocybus - "

Canichetus - "

April 13. From Sullivan's Ranger
Station at Mouth of Camas Cr. to
Adairs Ranch kept by Thos. Christianson
about 5 miles. Then around that
section and up to Logging Creek &
back.

The big yellow pine forest begins
about 2 miles south of Adairs and
covers the warm slopes and flats
up the valley. Much has been burned
but there are still great areas of
beautiful big trees, 3 to 5 feet through
& over 100 feet high. One that had
fallen was 43 paces to where the top
was broken & gone at 6 inches in
diameter. It must have stood
140 feet when perfect and was not
over 3 feet in diameter at stump.
Douglas spruce is also abundant
& large. Lodgepole, Pines & fir are
found on cold flats & cold slopes.

The great burns are coming
up to baldpole pine.
There are meadows and fields and
open slopes but not the snowfall
is said to be the lightest of anywhere
on the west slope of the park.

It is the great white tail
deer winter range and Mr. Sullivan
reports 100 seen in a day in a
mile along the road here last winter
and 27 of a bay stock. Mr. Christianson
says they have had 30 around their
barn ~~at~~ some morning or had to
keep a dog chained near to save
their bay. In the afternoon I saw
26 live deer and 12 dead ones
^{killed by Coyotes}
in a square mile. & the woods
are trampled up as if 1000 sheep
had wintered here.
The bushes are eaten down to stumps
year after year.

Amelanchier^{canadensis} & *Acer* seem to be the favorites. But *Rosa* & *Lonicera conjugata*, *Rubus nuthkanus*^{willow}, a little *symphoricarpos*, many dry weeds, green & black lichens are eaten. Now the deer seem to be picking green grass & weeds & thistles.

Coyotes have eaten most of the deer bones & all and generally only a bit of hair remains.

Moose - Five moose have wintered in the big burn a couple of miles south of Adair ranch. Signs is common & willows have been eaten down to stumps in places. Mr. Sullivan says they have been there all winter and he has seen them often. The old bull pawed at his name stood up at about 100 yards so he went in & named it. Says they have been bawling recently. Had horns 3 weeks ago & do not always shed them every year.

Sciurus - abn. One seen in big burn.

Peromyscus - one seen at Sullivan's.

Neotoma - Nest of deer hair in house next box at Logging Cr. Station. Had pulled croak of deer with rabbit.

Strong smell, lots of sign in cabin.

Eutamias luteiventris - 2 seen, the first.

Citellus columbianus - numerous, all out shrill whistles, with yellow pine in open.

Marmota - Mr. Sullivan says he has seen a few brown woodchucks.

Fiber - A few. The dogs brought up 2 to Christiansons. Not com.

Castor - Many old dams & ponds but few beaver.

Thomomys - common & begining to work.

Lepus timidus - signs seen.

Ursus horribilis, track seen by Christianson

April 8. One old skull

Ursus americanus - A few. one skull. one killed.

Felis - 3 skulls - , many young
caught - many killed in past.
Weasels - 6

Otter a few on river & one track
seen on logging cr. these winters.

Sharpshinned grouse - Three flocks on the
plate near here 2 years ago.
in winter

Wolverine 1 caught 1896 on
Carnas Cr. by W. O. Christian;
a track seen on head of logging Cr. in
1906.

Eutamias - 1 caught & photographed

April 14 Left the Adair Ranch
about 8 Am & reached the
ranger cabin at mouth of
Indian Creek at 2 P.M.
Had a good horse but going was
slow over icy or muddy roads.
Stopped at cabin to photograph
woodrat in nest & watched
deer & tracks all along.

Came through woods most of
way except on Lone Pine; cañon
which is small, not more than 50
acres. Saw a large deer in it.

Then woods again to the bridge
and a mile & a half beyond to ranger
cabin at south end of Big Prairie.
Left my horse & went on foot all
over the prairie & back into woods.
The prairie is 2 miles long & only a
mile wide. Level old stream flats
mostly open but bordered with

Lodgepole pine. Along the SW slope of the first bench extends a narrow belt of yellow pine & Douglas spruce, but there has been little yellow pine this side of Logging Creek. The open prairie & the warm slope back of it are transition zone & here buttercups & Claytonia are in blossom & grass getting green while there is 2 to 4 feet of snow in the woods.

The snowfall is not so heavy along the prairie strips. The soil is good but rather stony. Sagebrush (*A. tridentata*) is common on gravelly slopes & Balsamorhiza among the yellow pine.

Farms cover a large part of the prairie & wheat & oats & potatoes are raised.

Moose - 2 tracks seen at edge of Big Prairie.

White-tailed - 4 seen near Adams ranch (Th. Christiansen) & 4 on Lone Pine Prairie. Have wintered in great numbers along Logging Creek & Bowman Creek valleys & along the banks of the rivers. Not many around Big Prairie. All white-tail. Keep much in dense wood where lichens fall in snow and are eaten. Now feeding on green grass & thistles.

Mule deer - Mr. Palmer says there are a lot along north side of Kootenai Lake.

Sciurus - abn. all along.

Citellus columbianus - Abn. over prairie. Out & noisy & active.

Neotoma - One found dead in cabin
+ put in nest + photographed.

Nest a pool wide of black lichen
+ a few Franklin grouse feathers, half
covered over. Pellets all in tin
basin near nest.

Eutamias - One caught under Cove
+ photographed.

Microtus dumosus - One found dead
by nest in Big Prairie. Holes numerous
in meadow + surface nests a few.

Thomomys - Many mounds on all
prairie + in ground.

Gardens at damper station almost
plowed by the much crows.

Two caught at Ranger Station.

Rabbit - a few signs in woods.

Canis - Coyote tracks seen at a
few deer killed.

Lynx - One track seen near here
by John Sloan, this winter.

Ursus - Grizzly track seen in wood
probably same as reported by Theo
Christianson.

Black Bear Tracks near Bowman
Creek made yesterday.

Otter - Tracks seen on Bowman Cr.
by Sloan this winter.

Marten - a few tracks seen near
Bowman Cr. by Sloan.

Microtus mordax - One caught in outdoor
cellar near the potatoes. Photographed.

Peromyscus arizonae, One caught in
outdoor cellar near the vegetables.
Photo taken.

April 15 - Left Sloan's Ranger
Station on Indian Creek at 8 AM
with pack horse, bed roll & saddle
girth & accompanied by Mr. Sloan.
Reached Kintla Lake at 2 PM.
& camped for the night at the
cabin at lower end of lake.

Followed whole length of Big Prairie,
about 3 miles, although Round
Prairie, about 50 acres. Then
through lodge pole timber the rest of
way. No yellow pine north of Big
Prairie, all only a narrow strip along
east side. The open country is
probably Transition but *Astragalus*
tridentatus is the only conspicuous
shrub to characterize it.

Road all bare except in thick
woods. Kintla Lake still covered
with ice except narrow strip along
shore on north side.

Saw a few old wood tracks in
some coyote tracks + a bear track
near the lake.

Mistoma had great cache of 405
bushels of green leaves in cabin at SW
corner of lake but a big cat left
at night cabin had killed him.

Kingfisher - 1, first seen.

Bluebirds + robins abn. also juv.
Vain's Thrush heard near station in morning.
1 Merganser + 2 pairs of Wollards.
2 Ramers,

April 14 - Left cabin at lower end of
Kintla Lake at 8 am + reached
cabin at upper end at 12.

In PM went to side of upper
Kintla but not clear up it.
Returned to cabin at upper end of
lower lake and stayed over night.

Rough trail up north side of lakes
through dense forest + windfalls + second
growth. A great fresh Arctostaphylos
near lower end of upper lake, the biggest
I ever saw - clear across valley +
snow still 50 feet deep at bottom.
See photos.

Lakes all frozen over except a small
strip at lower end of each and along
side of lower lake and a large patch
at upper end of lower lake.

Snow all gone along warm slopes
high up. Trail mostly dry.

No yellow or white pine or
 Cedar but a little juniper is regular
 along lake shore. Lots of Tamarack,
 Douglas spruce, lodgepole, and a little
 Picea rubra, some birch & cottonwood
 & aspen & alder & maple.

Woods carpeted with deep yellow green
 moss (Hylocomium) & the evergreen vines of
 twinflower, bunchberry, & Rubus.
 Some Amelanchier & Cornus & high
 bush cranberry.

<u>Towhee</u>	1	in lake
<u>Shrikes</u>	12	in upper part of lake.
<u>Mallard</u>	1	
<u>Towhee</u>	en	
<u>Sitta</u>	heard	
<u>Parus gambeli</u>	a few	
<u>" apterusoides</u>	"	
<u>Hummers</u>	singing	
<u>Cuckoo</u>	signs on rocks	

<u>Raven</u>	several
<u>Black Crow</u>	1
<u>Dryobates</u>	1
<u>Coereba</u>	signs en.
<u>Branta</u>	3 seen & heard during
<u>Golden-crown Kinglet</u>	1 seen
<u>Ruby</u>	heard
<u>Bubo</u>	heard in evening
<u>Saw-whet</u>	or richardsoni, heard in night.

W.
Moose, a few tracks & signs dry lake
Muledeer, tracks & signs abundant all
along & winter in woods at end of lake.
Hairs where 2 killed by coyotes.
Meat at cabin & in bear trap pen.

Semms, can all along, nests of grass &
crossed with deer hair & feathers,
both close to trunk & out on limbs.

Thomson - great cache of beavers at old
cabin. One alive & one dead in cabin
at upper end of lake.

Peromyscus, one in trap at cabin.

Fiber - one shot at by Sloan in lake.

Castles, numerous last fall, 3 large
houses & many dams & much
wood cut last fall. No fresh
signs. All caught.

Cut willow, Cottonwood, Birch & alder.
Willow & cottonwood common.

Lepus - tracks & signs com.

Felis, signs seen. tracks in many
tracks made long hair before.

Lynx, one track, one skinned
Lynx at cabin.

Coyote, abn. tracks along all
trails, heard howling. Kill
many deer. Signs all along &
mostly deer hair.

Urocyon & rabbits. Old & young seen
upper lake, eating bear birds along
edge of mountain. Alder yellow
with brown tips & face & rump.
Young marked black with silver
saddle over neck & back.
Wains conspicuous & black.

Bear traps - guns but this
barred with rimson.

Mink - found one in trap in cabin
photographed & secured it. A skinned
one seen by cabin.

44.
April 17 - Snowed a inch in night and I hoped to find tracks of game but found only snowshoe rabbits, Coyote, Marmots, Skunk, Mole, & Squirrel tracks. Not even a deer or moose track.

Went up trail half way to upper lake, then back of down the trail to lower end of lower lake. Snow all went off before noon but the trail was slippery & tiresome. Carried about 25 lbs on my back & my legs ache yet.

Found partners of great horned owl & blue grouse & saw 2 ♂ & ♀ Franklin Grouse & 2 Ruffed Grouse. Saw the loon & a pair of shell ducks again at upper end of lake. No new birds.

April 18 - Left Kiulla Lake

8 AM. & reached Sloan's cabin
at 1 P.M. Snowing in morning.

Lots of fresh coyote tracks, a
few snowshoe rabbit & weasel tracks.
Slippery & hard walking.

In P.M. rode down to Dennis
Sullivan's & walked a mile &
a half farther to Theodore Christensen's
where I staid all night & gathered
up the skulls saved for me.

Black & grizzly bear & mountain lions.

Hard purple juncos on Big
Prairie and varied Thrush above.

Also saw Parrots & lots of robins &
bluebirds & juncos. No meadowlarks
until Christensen's where they are
singing. - A sparrow hawk on Big
Prairie.

April 19

Left the Christiansens as the sun came over the mts. with a pack of skulls on my back, about 25 lbs. Reached Canvas Creek at noon and Lake Mc Donald at about 4 P.M. Then came in to Burton after supper.

Made 21 miles on port except one mile on horseback with a boy leading an extra saddle horse. Snowshed over Mc Donald ~~and~~ ^{near} Modan. Snow still 4 feet deep on the Fish Creek ridge, none above Dutch Creek to bottom.

The snowfall is much heavier in Mc Donald & Canvas Creek valleys than above. The white pine, yellow cedar, Hemlock, and fir are restricted to this area of heavy snowfall.

Saw a red tail hawk, a fish hawk
& lots of common birds -
Coyote tracks along road.

April 20 - Packed specimens -
wrote letters at Hazelton.
Went up to Gibb's place at
Fish Creek after supper and
staid all night.

April 21 - Started up Lake McEwen
in morning in rowboat with
Evans and notes. A still
morning & thousands of ducks on
lake. Counted 13 species of
hormed & horned grebes & loons.
& gulls. Swan & geese
have all gone north last month.
Went to the cabin of the care-
taker at Lewis's & staid
all night. Gibb & the two
men went fishing at upper end
of lake and each got his
limit of 20 fish & 2 pond
trout & one 6 pound bull trout.
We had a mess of the swaller

was cooking for supper and
I ate 2 that would have weighed
a pound apiece and half another
that had been smoked.

They were all delicious and made
a good supper. We brought
the rest of the lot about 55 down
to Fish Creek to Mr. Paine.

The two men at Swiss have
been fishing & salting & smoking
& drying trout until they have
a large lot on hand. Besides
a keg of whitefish which they have
salted. No wonder the fishing
is poor in summer if
many people are storing them
away all winter as they
are in other places as well as
here.

Photographed woodrat nests
& watched ducks & birds.

April 22. The wind blew and the motor would not work, so we rowed up to head of lake and I went up to falls and photographed water angles nest while Gibb went down to Kelleys to see if the engine could be made to work.

Found a moose skull & took it along to Kelleys and then down in the boat & carried it out on my back to Pelton & sent it in. It is a fine head except for lack of lower jaws.

Packed up and left Pelton next morning early for Ketchikan.

Ep

April 23 - Took train at
Milton at 6:20 AM -
reached Kalispell at 8 AM.
Went to Kalispell Hotel to write
reports where I could be as
comfortable as possible.
Got negatives developed
+ laundry done.

April 24 + 25 - At the Kalispell
Hotel writing reports.

Saw H. H. Stanford + got 2 grizzly
skulls from him.

Forest cruiser Flint took me out
to F. F. Liebig's house where I saw his
collection of birds + skins.

He has a small yellow brown grizzly
skinner on his floor with its skull
inside. - and a cub skin of a
brown silver tip. Mr. Liebig says the
2 skins of the skulls I got were dark

with silvery tips. She says they were killed on Flat Top, but I think it was the one near St. Mary Lake as Liebig was stationed there at one time.

Left Kalispell at 10:20 P.M.
April 25.

April 24. Daylight before reaching Spokane. Reached Seattle before dark - 8 P.M.

Season more advanced at Spokane than at Kalispell. Lupines & Balsamorhiza in blossom & grass well up.

Only Anemone patens at Kalispell.

In Columbia River & Kootenai Wenatchee river valleys, oaks & pines are out - Lupines,

Larkspur, phlox, Kungia & apples & cherries, trees in leaf & grass tall.

Lots of snow on crest of Cascades, but very little along railroad at summit.

On west slope spring is far advanced with lots of flowers, trees in leaf & crops well along.

Western stemk cabbage conspicuous by big yellow flowers, pink flowering currants brilliant, Echiniums out, Apples & cherries & dogwood in flower.

with S. D. ... to ... She says
April 27 - Got mail & went
to Forest Service office at Seattle
but found the Olympic forest
office was at Olympia, so
took first train down this &
got wrapped up with information
as I could & caught 7 PM.
train back to Seattle so as to
get the midnight boat to
Port Angeles where I begin
work on the elk. Will see
Ranger Carl Morgansoth at
Port Angeles & get more recent
data from him.

Country full of flowers & grasses
& growing fruit & crops &
very warm & spring like.

April 29 - Arrived at Port Angeles
7 AM & went to Mercantile Hotel.

Learned that the forest ranger, Carl
Morgansoth, would not be back until
tomorrow so tramped in woods
back of town and made lists of
plants & birds.

April 30 - My baggage was left at
Port Townsend & came out noon today.
Got out my supplies for the trip, saw
the ranger and was all ready to
start in morning.

Apr 12 7. Got mail + went
April 31 - Took stage to Showa
River + trail up east side of river
to Grant Humes place 10 miles
above bridge. Arrived at 5 P.M.
+ finding no one at home
took peaceful possession of the
ranch, fed the chickens, gathered
the eggs, carried in wood for
the night + had supper ready
ready when Mr. Hume came
in at dusk. Found him a pleasant
fellow from Lowville, N.Y. who had
been out here about 10 years + was
well acquainted with the country +
game + people, a well read,
intelligent fellow + quite a
naturalist. Learned much from
him in regard to elk + game
+ mountain lions + wolves.

Found a good trail up the river
through beautiful forests on the flats
+ over the ridges. Watched the
open slopes for elk but saw none.
The tracks were numerous. The same
with deer. Saw one Hoary marmot
down near the river on a log.

Hume has killed many mountain lions
+ says they make a hiss and make
a deep, ferocious growl when
in a trap. He has 2 skins of a
pair killed in Feb., very dark brown
with much black on tails. Also
a bobcat skin taken in March that
is very red + beautiful.

May 1. - Started down the valley
but on west side of river & for 3
miles without any trail except
the trails. Struck the Hot Springs
trail below Boulder Cr. & reached
the Steep road at 7 P.M.

Saw 3 elk in Huns' field in morning
and 2 in field across river and 11 on
hill above, and 29 on west ridge
and 38 on west ridge near Cat
Creek. Tracks & signs were numerous
most of way down the river and
at Thomas' ~~field~~ was the stag and
a drove of about 30 had been chased out
of the clover field in the morning &
had run through a barbed wire fence in
3 places & broken one or 2 or 3 of
the 5 wires and in one place torn
them all but top & bottom wires off
for several rods, when the hunter
owner went after them with dog

and shot gun. Huns estimates
7000 elk in the valley & this is
abundant evidence of that many.

In color the elk were strikingly
dark iron green with very buffy
rump patches. Their sides match
the bark of spruce & fir logs perfectly
& the rump patches the yellow wood
of the end of a broken log.

Their mules are dark & not so brown
as in the Yellowstone elk. The bulls
have horns of 3 rounded knobs
about 10 inches long.

Some were seen feeding on willow
bark & twigs & many on grass or
clover in the fields. The bushes
most browsed are willow, maple,
salmon berry, Ceanothus, Holodiscus
and a little on thimble berry, rose,
pin cherry. Huns says they eat much
long birch in winter. also willow bark.

Bleektail dug - Saw only one
deer but thousands of tracks. They
are eating up Mr. Lauridsen's
clover and timothy field & he dump
ed up 5 acres of oats last year
when he should have had 500
bushels of oats.

Many flowers in blossom
including wonderful pink asters,
fuscia like gossamers, white
Euphorbia, lots of Calypso

May 2, Left Elvha on the stage
at 9:30 and followed good road
through big forest along edge of
Sutherland Lake, then along Crescent
Lake to the north end where I took
ferry boat to the west end of lake.
Then caught a truck to near
Forks on the lower Solitude R.
From Crescent Lake west the
road was especially interesting
through wonderful forest of Douglas
spruce, hemlock, balsam, and
west of Beaver Lake of Sitka
spruce. The trees are large and
tall & close together and the dense
shade excludes all but mosses,
ferns and a few shade loving
plants in the perfect forest.
Along the streams & meadows &
springs alders & maples & many
shrubs grow densely.

Many strips of ridge slopes have been burned over and only blackening stumps & logs remain. There are a few clearings and farms along the stream bottoms but the fields are small & have been cleared at great expense. Clovers & timothy and cattle are the principal products, but oats & vegetables grow well. Crops look good & it is a great dairy country with luxuriant green feed all the year around.

At Forks they have a saw mill & are cutting aeroplane timber of Sitka spruce and hauling it on trestles to Port Townsend 50 miles distant. They get \$105 per M. 1000 feet & \$20 for hauling.

The woods are excellent.

Rained most of P.M.

May 3. Got saddle horse at Forks and trail to Bogachiel and the Hoh and up the Hoh to Fred Fisher's ranch about a mile above Spruce & on the north side. Came about 26 miles over pioneer trail most of way. All through big woods were and unburned. It is supreme wetfoot country, with moss laden trees, deep mossy ground, cool, damp, shady woods.

Enormous trees of Douglas spruce, Sitka spruce, yellow cedar, hemlock and balsam in varying abundance.

Saw one cone of *Pinus moultonii* but did not stop to find the tree.

Huge cottonwoods grow along the stream bottoms and alders form dense thickets on the flats. Big barex & vine maple grow where ever they can get in between & are mainly draped with moss.

Skunk cabbage is in full bloom
with great yellow calla like flowers
the richest I have seen. Salmon
berry bushes are in full bloom
& ferns cover the ground in places
& in other places there is scrubgrass
& sedge.

The trails are so wet & muddy
for a large part of the year that dogs
are split out and laid down in
continuous corduroy or bridge
work & these are called "pundichons"
They are about 6 feet long, making a
trail just too narrow for wagons
but one horse sleds are used on
them in wet weather & probably
slip along nicely. A number of the
sleds made for these trails were
seen along the sides.

For company I had 4 Quetz
Indians on this way to the lower
Hoh, 2 young men, an old squaw
& her daughter. They were intelligent,
spoke good English & gave me
some good information about the
country. They catch fur seals
out at sea in their canoes
& also kill harbor seals for the
bounty & birds. They say there
are some fishes & martins & minks,
+ ^{other} crows and bobcats, but no
Canada lynx or foxes or wolverines
or muskrats and no larger any
beaver.

Rained most of PM & I got
pretty wet before reaching Fishers.

May 4. Left my horse at Fishers
& walked up the Hoh river trail
to the upper ranger cabin near
the head of the valley, 17 miles.
No one at the station & locked, so
I camped in the shed where a
shale roof keeps off the rain.
Had a good trail most of way along
river flats in big woods.

Saw one band of about 30 elk
& a few small bunches. Lots of
Elk tracks all the way up but
the woods & brush are so thick
you do not see the elk unless you
are right on them. I got within
75 to 100 feet of some seen, but
the light is poor for photography.
Evidently the estimate of 2000 for
the Hoh valley is not too high as
for 20 miles or more the tracks are
numerous & well distributed.

Above Fishers the valley is
cleared out of the salmon berry, willows,
blueberry bushes, ^{elder} and most of the elk
browse except vine maple. The elk
are picking various plants for its food
but seem to be feeding mostly on
the young leaves of the vine maple.
In places they still get some salmon
berry which seems to be their favorite
food. They are in good condition
and all very dark colored except
new & then an old cow or old bull
that is somewhat faded.

The horns of the old bulls are
generally 4 to 6 inches long
in 2 or 3 rounded knobs.

In most cases I could get up to
50 or 100 feet of the elk, but in
the dense woods there is not
enough light for snapshots.

May 5. Slept in an open shed
at the Olympic Forest camp station
and was glad to have a good shake
roof over me for it rained steadily
all night. Found an old tent and
covered up with it & slept pretty
well, tho a rather cold night.
It snowed a few hundred feet higher
up and apparently a foot of fresh
snow lay on the edges above.

Started early - walked back
down the trail 17 miles to Lee's
Fishery. Saw a number of
small bands of elk, but none
of more than 9. Rained in P.M.
Wet, tired & foot-sore.

May 6. Left Fred Fiechus in morning on horseback, but out about 3 miles the cinch loosened & as I got off the saddle turned & the horse knocked me down and walked on and bucked off the saddle & ran down the trail. I carried saddle & blanket & bridle which soon came off down to Carl Fiechus, about 3 miles, where Carl caught my horse and helped me mend the cinch & get loaded up again. I took photographs of some elk and deer heads at Carl's and got some additional information from him on elk & deer.

Then continued over the trail to Forks, where I arrived about 6 P.M. The trip of 25 miles, largely over punchon trails, was slow and cold, and tiresome, after my heavy pack load in the morning, and the occasional drizzle and cold, damp

air prevented my fully enjoying
the magnificent forest of hemlock,
Douglas spruce, Sitka spruce,
yellow cedar and white fir through
which the trail leads.

The rains have made the trail very
muddy between places where covered
with puncheons & made the puncheons
slippery so travelling was hard
& slow. There was little chance
to take pictures but I tried a few
of the trail & of stink cabbage
which grows in wonderful beds
- wet places.

May 7. No stage to Crescent Lake until Friday so I hired an auto to take me the first 30 miles through wonderful forest but a cold drizzling rain dampened my enjoyment of it. The boat trip across Crescent Lake was cold and raw so I sat in the cabin in a cloud of cigarette smoke and watched the gamblers play polo for money.

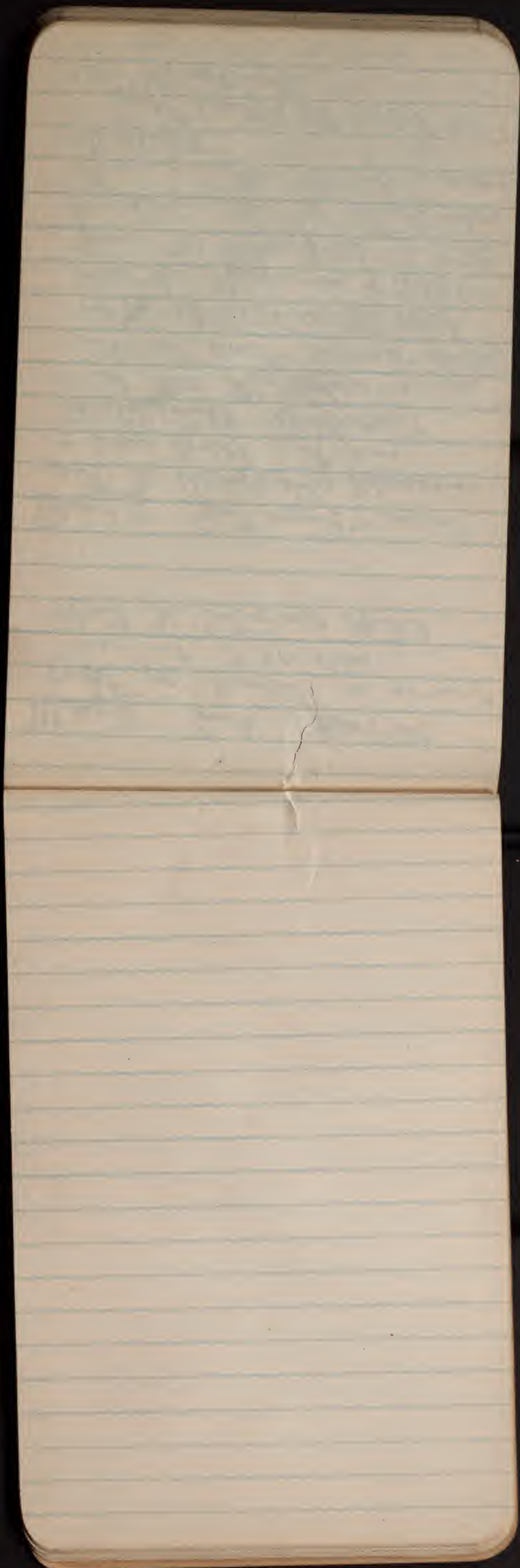
Took the lower road back from the lake around by Pross Crescent and through the awful desert of stumps along the coast strip that has been lumbered off and burned and occasionally little patches cleared for farms. It was the great Cedar belt of the West and has gone to cover the roofs of the whole country.

Reached Port Angeles at noon,

It is cold and windy but there has been no rain over here for the past 6 days while it has been raining west of the mts. There is a great difference in climate, being much dryer and somewhat colder in winter east of the mts. The vegetation indicates the difference, woodhoses & even a few manzanitas growing along the Elwha & in the Port Angeles region.

May 8, Took 1 ~~00~~ PM boat for Seattle and arrived there at 7:30 PM. Went to Stevens Hotel.

May 9 Got up and went out to University Museum & saw Hael and his trisidermist Albrecht and Mr. Rathbun came out and had lunch with us at the Faculty club. Saw the specimens of all from the Olympics but the museum has no study series of mammals and only a poor herpetibit. Left Seattle at 7:10 PM for Washington.



The snowfall is light & this is
the best winter range in the park.
The deer are chased in by coyotes
and need the protection of men
and traps & feed.

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Olson place of 160 acres is
60 a year

On P. C. Miller place of 80 acres
75 a year.

These join the Adair place and
cut over 100 tons of hay a year
and deer now feed at the stacks
(27 deer at one time at ~~the stacks~~ 1912)
The place is level & broad for
the front, and the hay cut and
stacked for deer, in 1 and winter
Cattle could be ~~eliminated~~ ^{fed} & dogs
kept out & hay for ^{wintering} ~~front~~ horses
could be cut

These two ranches could be bought for
4500. this spring. They join the Adair
ranch when they & Ernest Christman have
160 acres, (4000 without the timber or 6000
with the yellow pine on it)

Ora Reeves, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below
Camos G. Bridge, caught a quizzey
Cub & sold it to Jack at Spokane.
Also has a panther cub at Columbia
Falls. - Jim Graves keeps it.

March 3rd - 1872

Charles F. Albright
Division Vertebrate Exhibits
State Museum, Seattle.